as per the Ministry's guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Government was requested to provide complete details in respect of the proposal in January, 1995. The information was provided by the State Government in August, 1999.

The information provided by the State Government reveals that the project forms part of elephant habitat. The proposal is therefore being examined from the wildlife angle particularly with regard to the impact of the project on the migratory route of the elephants. A Committee has been constituted to inspect the area and submit its report within a month indicating mitigatory measures, if any.

Electrification of Jalandhar-Amritsar Rail Line

†*229. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision for electrification of Jalandhar to Amritsar rail line has since been taken;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) if so, the details of the expenditure and by when the electrification of the above rail line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Electrification of Jalandhar-Amritsar rail line is a part of Ludhiana-Amritsar electrification project which has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 93.07 crores. The expenditure likely to be incurred upto 31.3.2000 is Rs. 1.80 crores. The above rail line is targeted for completion by March, 2004, subject to availability of funds.

Tobacco-Related Deaths

*230. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of tobacco-related deaths during the last four years;

(b) the State and Union Territory-wise break-up of such deaths; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken and being taken to curb and control the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) Based on the study by the Indian Council of Medical Research utilising the data of National Sample Survey Organisation, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research etc., the estimated number of deaths every year in India due to tobacco is about 8 lakhs. The year-wise break up of deaths due to tobacco use is not available.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd report had made several recommendations primarily intended to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. The Government is examining these recommendations and a draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Affairs of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

*231. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the results of the probe conducted by the Rastogi Committee (1998) set up by the Ministry of probe into the alleged wrongs undertaken by the officers and authorities of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in the first half of the last decade of 20th century; and

(b) what are the steps taken/contemplated to stop such acts in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Ministry set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Krishna Gopal Rastogi to inquire into the allegations of administrative and financial irregularities against authorities of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. The Committee has since submitted its report and the report is being examined by the Government. However, pending action on the report, in the matters of transfer, posting, appointments and admissions, transparent systems are being introduced and it is a continuous process.

Incidences of theft from Railway Bogies during transit

*232. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS